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Marcia R. Morton

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Marcia R. Morton

Signature

March 3, 2003

Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Zhong et al.

Appl. No. 09/928,614

Filed: August 13, 2001

For: Methods for Stable Transformation of
Plants

Art Unit: 1638

Examiner: Russell Kallis

Atty Docket: S-31514A

Confirmation No. 7523

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REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This submission is in response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2002 and is accompanied by a request for a two-month extension of time and authorization to charge the requisite fee of \$410 to Applicants' credit card.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this submission. Should any fee be required, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 50-1744 in the name of Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc.

In the Office Action mailed December 3, 2002, the claims were restricted into eight groups:

Group I, claims 1-13, 14 18-24, and 28-29;

Group II, claims 1-13, 15, 18-24, 25, and 29;

Group III, claims 1-13, 15, 18-24, 26, and 29;

Group IV, claims 1-13, 15, 18-24, 27, and 29;

Group V, claims 1-13, 16, 18-24, and 29;

Group VI, claims 1-13, 17, 18-24, and 29;

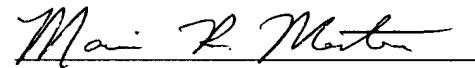
Zhong *et al.*
Application No. 09/928,614

Group VII, claims 30-45; and
Group VIII, claims 46-50.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the claims of Group VI without traverse.

Applicants note the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 1-13, 18-24, and 29 are common to Groups I-VI and request that the full scope of these claims are examined as they read upon the claimed invention. Claim 17, which is the only other claim grouped in Group VI, has been cancelled via the enclosed Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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